The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

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Story & Art by
Aya Shouoto

CHAPTER 1

YOU MUSTN'T...

...LOOK AT ME.

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CHAPTER 1
The Mysterious Residents of Momochi House

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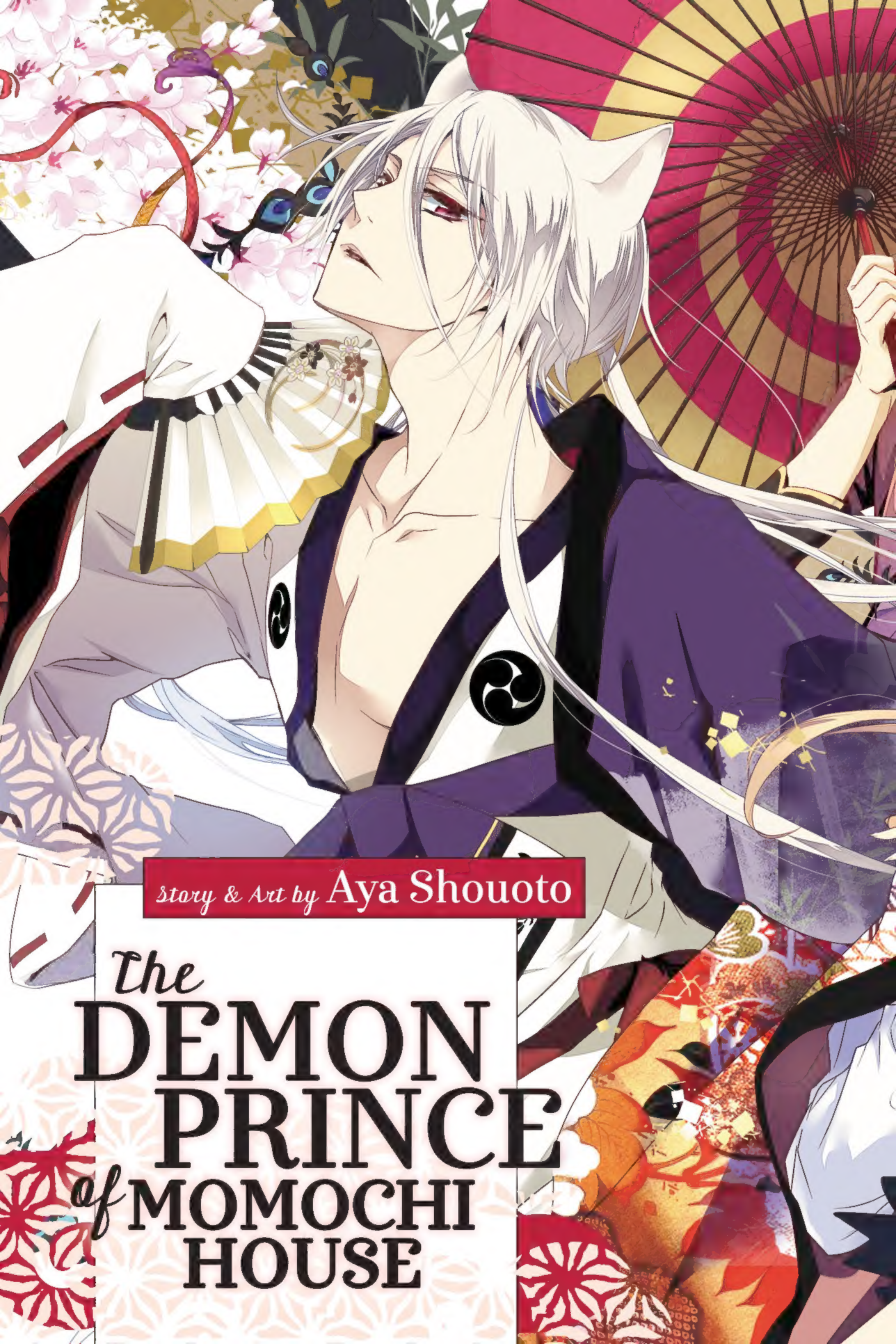

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SWFF
TMP
TMP
THIS PLACE IS DEEP IN THE MOUN-TAINS...
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME I'M LOST.
SWFF
TMP
EVERY WOMAN SHOULD BE THE MISTRESS OF HER OWN DOMAIN... OR SO THEY SAY.
...DON'T GO INTO THE FOREST BEYOND THAT PATH.
YOUNG LADY...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE MOMOCHI HOUSE IS?
SWFF
HELLO!
OH, I SEE SOME-ONE!
I'M HAVING TROUBLE WITH NEIGHBORS ALREADY?
SWFF
MY NAME IS HIMARI MOMOCHI.
WHAT ?!
SWFF
PLEASE WAIT...
MOMOCHI HOUSE IS HAUNTED.
IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE, YOU'LL BE CURSED BY THE OMAMORI-SAMA.

SWF

I GOT A HOUSE FOR MY 16TH BIRTHDAY.

IT'S HUGE...! AND OLD!

KREE

MOMOUCHI

PARDON MY INTRUSION... OH, I GUESS I SHOULD BE SAYING...

...I HAD INHERITED A MANSION KEPT IN TRUST.

THE DAY I TURNED 16, I RECEIVED A DOCUMENT STATING THAT...

...LEFT TO ME BY MY REAL FAMILY.

...BUT THIS HOUSE IS THE ONE AND ONLY THING...

...SO I'VE NEVER HAD ANY FAMILY TIES.

TMP

TMP

MY PARENTS DIED IN AN ACCIDENT, AND I HAVE NO OTHER RELATIVES...

THUMBS UP

MY PARENTS MUST'VE BEEN BIG-TIME!

THIS IS INCRED-IBLE...!

THE ORPHANAGE WAS MY HOME FOR 16 YEARS. I LOVED EVERYONE THERE...

I'M GOING TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!

...."I'M HOME."

Right?

WHOOSH

BAM

URK

SO MUCH FOR TAKING GOOD CARE OF THIS PLACE...

VANISHED

WHAT WAS THAT?!

IT WAS HUGE! WAS THAT A GIANT TANUKI? MAYBE A WILD DOG?!

TIPTOE

BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE IT'S OLD. IT'S AS IF SOMEONE TRASHED IT...

WOW... THIS PLACE IS A WRECK.

KOFF KOFF

SO MUCH DUST...

WHA-?

BAM

IS SOMEONE THERE?

HUH?

FWISH
AOI! PUT SOME CLOTHES ON!
AH!
Um...
Um...
VUP VUP
?!

FWISH

AOI! PUT SOME CLOTHES ON!

VUP VUP

Um...

AH!

?!

B...

BURGLAR ...?

ME?!

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THIS!!

EWW

Will

I'M HIMARI MOMOCHI...

...AND I AM THE LEGAL OWNER OF THIS HOUSE!

I AM...

NOW WHO ARE YOU?

NOT ONLY DOES IT LOOK LEGAL, IT IS LEGAL.

IT LOOKS LEGAL ENOUGH.

...AOI NANAMORI.

BRRMP

WE'RE ALREADY ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS?!

...HIMARI.

IT'S VERY NICE TO HAVE YOU HERE...

I-IT'S NICE TO HAVE ME HERE...?

BLUSH

I'm not usually a sucker for gorgeous guys, but

HMPH!

AND THAT'S ISE.

HELLO.

THIS IS YUKARI.

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY...

...WE'RE SQUATTERS.

!

ANYWAY... STARTING TODAY THIS IS MY HOUSE, SO...

I'M SUR-PRISED ...

...YOU BELIEVE THAT DODGY WILL IS GENUINE.

TRMBL

EASYGOING

TRMBL

SQUAT-TERS?!

YOU'RE THE DODGY ONES!

HEH HEH

ARE YOU STUPID?!

YOU NEVER CONSIDERED IT MIGHT BE FAKE?

WILL

TOSS

WHAT AN AWFUL THING TO SAY.

THIS WILL IS THE ONLY LINK I'VE EVER HAD TO MY FAMILY.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ENOUGH, ISE.

BUT EVEN SO...

HUH?

GWA

JUST HOW SHAMELESS CAN YOU BE?!

AAH

R

YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS HOUSE.

IF ANYONE SHOULD LEAVE, IT'S YOU THREE!

TH-THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

...BUT IT'S TROUBLESOME FOR US IF YOU STAY.

THAT MAY BE...

THIS IS MY HOUSE! DIDN'T YOU SEE THE NAME BY THE ENTRANCE? IT'S MOMOCHI!

HOW ABSURD!

I'LL BE THE ONE MAKING THEM LEAVE!

My plan starts now!

JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE GORGEOUS DOESN'T MEAN THEY CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT.

I'M NOT GIVING UP.

KRRK

KRRK

CHIRP

CHIRP

I'LL MAKE THIS HOUSE SO GIRLY THEY'LL FEEL TOO UNCOM-FORTABLE TO STAY.

HEE HEE HEE

BUT...

THERE ARE HOLES IN THE DOORS, AND THE ENTIRE HOUSE IS IN SHAMBLES.

WOOD-BURNING STOVE

BROOM

CLUTTER

IT'S OBVIOUS BOYS LIVE HERE.

JUST LOOK AT THIS MESS.

CLUTTER

NOT ONLY THAT ...

THIS IS ROUGH!!

WHY ISN'T THERE A SINGLE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE IN THIS HOUSE?!

Give me a vacuum cleaner...

WHY IS HE BREAKING THINGS?!

Is it to annoy me?

AH, THAT WAS A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!

I'LL SEND HIM TO TEDDY BEAR HELL...

Ignore

IRK

YOU'RE STILL HERE, HUH?

GOOD MORNING.

WORKING HARD, I SEE.

AH, I'M STARVING.

AT LEAST HE'S WEARING CLOTHES TODAY.

SUFF

VISH

BREAKFAST IS READY, AOI.

THANKS, YUKARI.

HUH?

WHERE'D HE GET THAT FROM?

COME TO THINK OF IT, MOST NORMAL PEOPLE WOULD BE IN SCHOOL OR AT WORK AT THIS HOUR...

GYAH HAH

DROWSY

AND...

It's hot!

ARE THEY WHAT YOU'D CALL "NEETS"?

(*Not Employed, Educated, or in Training)

Hey, after breakfast, let's have some fun!

It's not a big deal.

Are you okay?

...THEY SEEM...

...BONE IDLE!

THEIR MALE BONDING IS MORE LIKE FLIRTING...

THERE.

She'll wreck the place.

...

BAM

KLATT

HUP!

REEL

EEK!

WHOOSH

Okay, what's next?

SHAMBLES

NOT BAD, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.

HHM

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

AOI NANAMORI...

SUFF

SUFF

YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU?

HUH?

DON'T TELL ME THIS PLACE DOESN'T HAVE ELECTRICITY.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? WHY DON'T YOU HAVE ANY APPLIANCES?

HUH?

Shh...

SWIP

I'M FINE!

WHAT IS UP WITH THIS HOUSE?

YOU'VE GOT LAMPS, SO...

THWIP

WHAT'S THIS?

AH.

THAT'S MY SMARTPHONE.

AAAH!

GO ON

...

UM... SORRY I BROKE YOUR THING...

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!

MY PHONE...

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU GIVE HIM?!

AOI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

ARE YOU MAD?

...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. LUCKILY I'VE GOT INSURANCE.

I HOPE IT COVERS EXPLO-SIONS.

HIMARI, I...

WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME AROUND?

I JUST SWEPT THAT AREA, AND YOUR ROBE IS DRAG-GING DUST ALL OVER IT AGAIN.

Why are you wearing that thing?

OH...

HIMARI...

WHAT? YOU WON'T CHANGE MY MIND, YOU KNOW.

IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T WANDER AROUND THE HOUSE TOO MUCH.

WHY?

YOU'LL GET LOST.

THIS HOUSE TENDS TO SWALLOW THINGS UP.

IT'S NO USE TRYING TO SCARE ME!

I HEARD THIS HOUSE WAS HAUNTED BEFORE I CAME HERE.

HAUNTED? YES, I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT THAT.

HIMARI, I'M SERIOUS...

I DON'T CARE! HE'S JUST TRYING TO SCARE ME INTO LEAVING.

SO WHAT?!

IF YOU STAY HERE, SOMETHING BAD MIGHT HAPPEN.

BUT...

...AND THEN HE PUTS HIS HANDS ALL OVER ME!

HE'S NICE AND TALKS IN THAT GENTLE VOICE OF HIS...

HIMARI...

CHILLS

IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE, YOU'LL BE CURSED BY THE OMAMORI-SAMA.

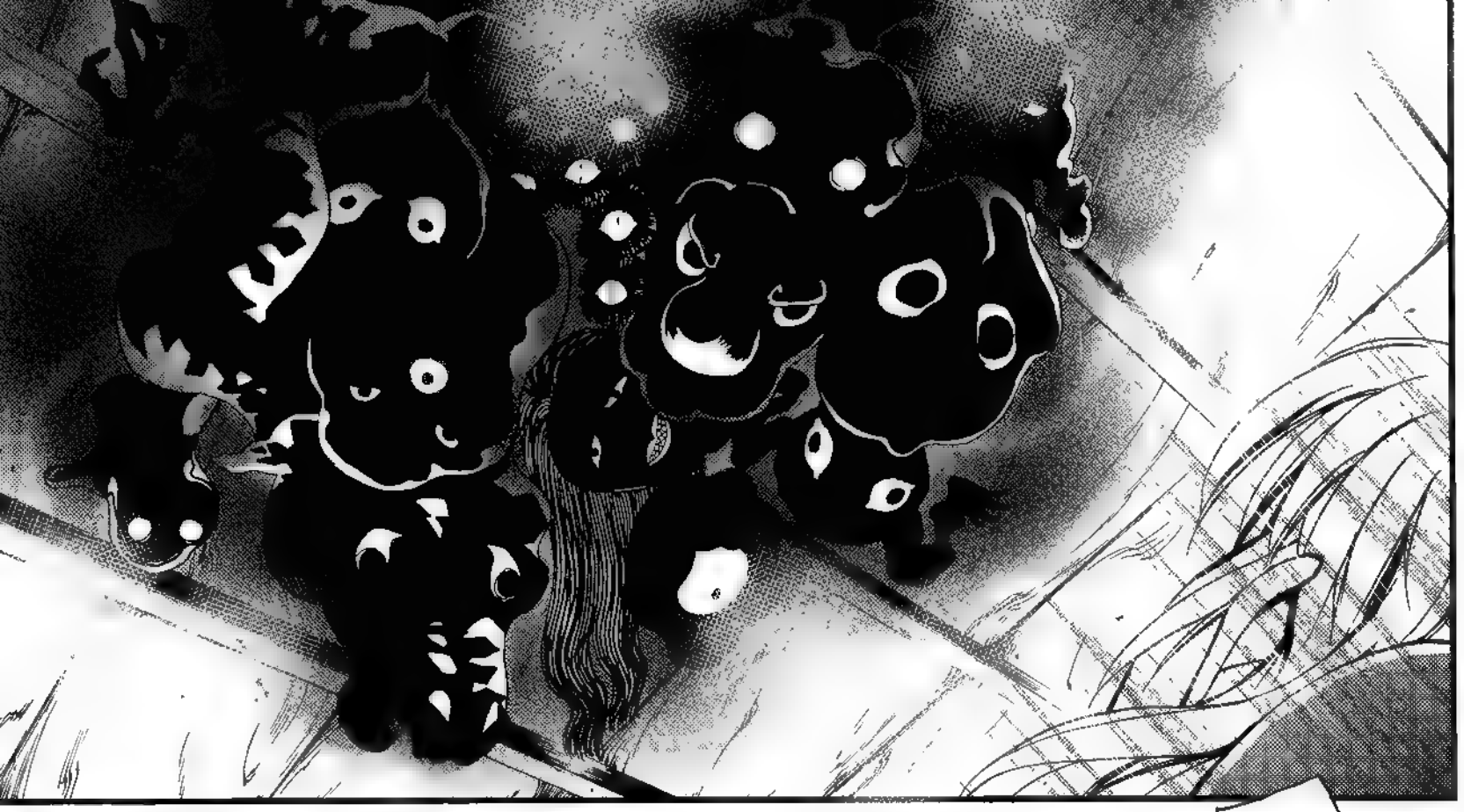
I WISH I HADN'T REMEMBERED THAT.

NO, NO...

MOMOCHI HOUSE IS HAUNTED.

THIS HOUSE IS HUGE. I CLEANED ONLY A SMALL SECTION OF IT TODAY.

YOU'LL GET LOST.



I WON'T ALLOW THIS.

GHOSTS OR WHATEVER YOU ARE...

KLENCH

GRAB

...

GHOSTS ?!

NO FREE-LOADING!

GYAAH!

SWUK

SWUK

GYAAH!

GYAAH!

ARE YOU OKAY?! I HEARD SCREAMING...

KLAK

SWP

Eek!

Eek!

YEEK!

OH!

HUH ...?

WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?

YOU SENT THE LESSER YOKAI HERE, DIDN'T YOU? YOU NEED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON.

WHY DO WE NEED TO BE TIED UP TOO, AOI?!

AOI!

BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...

MEEK

RWL

RWL

WHAT IS THIS?! THESE STUFFED ANIMALS ARE TALKING!

"AYAKASHI"?

DEMONS AND SPIRITS REALLY EXIST?

...

THEY LIVE IN THIS HOUSE TOO.

THEY'RE MYSTERIOUS NONHUMAN BEINGS. THEY'RE ALSO KNOWN AS DEMONS OR SPIRITS.

POFF

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT. YOU DIDN'T LISTEN TO AOI!

You made such a ruckus in our house!

You mon-ster girl!!

I'M SORRY THEY TRIED TO SCARE YOU AWAY.

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR BEING ANGRY, BUT CAN YOU FORGIVE THEM?

THESE GUYS HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.

I GET IT NOW...

THIS IS WHY THIS PLACE IS SAID TO BE "HAUNTED."

Aoi!

VEEN

HE WANTED ME TO LEAVE BECAUSE THESE LITTLE GUYS ARE HERE...

ARE YOU AN AYAKASHI TOO, AOI?

AOI IS HUMAN.

BY THE WAY, I'M AN *AMIZUCHI*—A WATER SERPENT.

I'M A *SHOUJOU*. AN ORANG-UTAN.

BUT AOI IS PRACTICALLY ONE OF US!

UNTIE US ALREADY.

We're sorry, Aoi!

APOLOGIZE TO HIMARI FIRST.

YOU SEEM LIKE...

...ONE BIG FAMILY.

Come on now.

BUT YOU MUST LEAVE.

BLUSH

YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.

THIS MAY BE MY HOUSE...

HIMARI!

...BUT IT ISN'T WHERE I BELONG.

I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED.

FOR A MOMENT THERE...

...I THOUGHT I COULD BE A PART OF THEIR GROUP.

TMP

YEAH...

YOU'RE RIGHT...

I'LL LEAVE.

!

I DIDN'T MEAN RIGHT NOW IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...

EEK!

WHOOSH

YOU LOOK TASTY.

FUSH

!

NOT NOW!

VUP

?!

...

HIMARI, OVER HERE!

IS THIS AN AYAKASHI TOO?

RHHM

THE SMELL OF A MO-MOCH! ...

I'M GLAD I CAME BACK.

...

AHH...

GACK

I CAN'T BREATHE...

HIMARI!

SO OFF

SHFF

YOU CAN BREATHE NOW. YOU'LL BE FINE.

I SUCKED IT OUT.

KOFF KOFF KOFF

HE KISSED ME?!

AOI?

HUFF

GIVE IT BACK ...

SHE'S MY PREY ...

I LET THAT KUMONYUDO ESCAPE ONCE BEFORE.

THERE'S NO TIME...

AOI!

UNTIE US!

THIS MUST BE...

DASH

...THE TERRIFYING "OMAMORI-SAMA."

AOI, LOOK OUT!

YOU MUSTN'T...

...LOOK AT ME.

...

FOOM

AOI?!

...YOU WILL NOT GET OFF SO EASILY.

NOW THAT WE HAVE MET A SECOND TIME...

KRUK

KRUK

KRUK

I WARNED YOU.

FWP

ARRGH

GYAAAR

STOP THIS...

YOUR LIFE IS NOT WORTH BEGGING FOR.

SHOT

BEGONE!

HUH

...

AOI...

...IS THE OMAMORI-SAMA.

!!

AOI IS AN AYAKASHI TOO?

I AM NUE. I AM THE PROTECTOR OF THIS HOUSE, WHICH WAS BUILT IN THE SPACE BETWEEN THE MATERIAL WORLD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM...

I AM THE RIGHTFUL OWNER OF MOMOCHI HOUSE.

I CANNOT LEAVE THIS PLACE.

IT IS YOU WHO MUST GO.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

"THE TERRIFYING CURSE OF THE OMAMORI-SAMA..."

...THE HOUSE CHOSE ME TO BE THE OMAMORI-SAMA.
...AND BROKE THE SEAL...
I WANDERED IN HERE SEVERAL YEARS AGO. WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR...
THIS IS A VERY STRANGE HOUSE.

A HOUSE INHABITED BY SPIRITS AND DEMONS, BUILT ON THE BARRIER BETWEEN THE HUMAN AND SPIRITUAL WORLDS...

...AND TRANSFORMS YOU INTO THE NUE...

WHEN THIS HOUSE CHOOSES YOU, IT GRANTS YOU INCREDIBLE POWER...

...THE PROTECTOR OF ITS REALM.

THEN I...

YES.

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BECOME THE OMAMORI-SAMA.

BUT I ENDED UP BEING CHOSEN INSTEAD.

YUKARI ...

...BUT WE SUSPECT THIS WILL WAS A TRAP...

I WOULDN'T SAY AOI PITIES YOU EXACTLY...

Will

...TO LURE YOU HERE.

SHFF

THIS...

Will

THE WILL?

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TURN INTO A MONSTER LIKE ME, YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE!

THE BLOOD OF THE RIGHTFUL HEIR RUNS THROUGH YOUR VEINS.

THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN THIS HOUSE WILL CHOOSE ANOTHER TO TAKE MY PLACE.

...HAVE ACCEPTED MY SITUATION.

I...

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

BUT...

AND I HAVE THESE SHIKIGAMI WITH ME. I'LL BE JUST FINE.

SO IT'S NO PROBLEM IF YOU LEAVE.

I SEE...

THUD

REEL

HIMARI ?!

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

TMP

SH

HUFF

WHY?!

I THOUGHT I SUCKED OUT THE KUMONYUDO'S EVIL ENERGY...

HIMARI HAS THE BLOOD OF THE MOMOCHI IN HER VEINS.

SHE'S PROBABLY MORE SENSITIVE THAN REGULAR HUMANS.

BUT...

...

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

SHFF

SHFF

SHFF

SHFF

SHFF
SHFF
SHFF

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?!

!

I THOUGHT I HAD PROTECTED HER...!

IF I CAN'T SAVE HER...

...THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO KEEP LIVING!

TMP

...YOU'RE LIVING FOR MY SAKE...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, AOI?

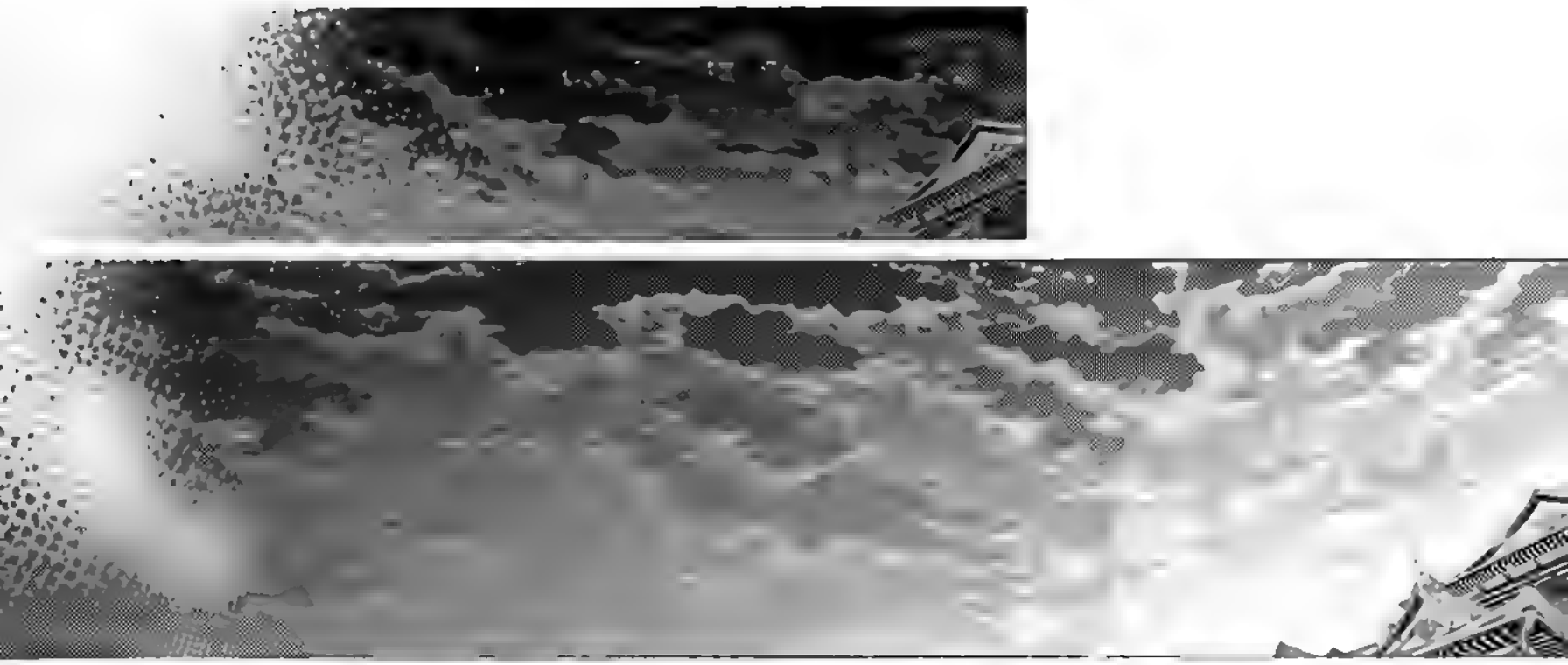
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE...

KLASP

AOI...

ARE YOU LONELY?

IF YOU ARE, THEN I WILL...



KLAK

GOOD MORNING!

...

HIMARI... HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

I THINK I WENT INTO SHOCK FOR A BIT AFTER ALL THAT LAST NIGHT.

SLUMP

But I feel refreshed now.

IT WAS SHOCK ?!

BUT...

...I REALIZE NOW YOU WERE TRYING TO DO ME A FAVOR BY THROWING ME OUT.

THANKS.

THAT WAS, UM...

AND THANKS FOR HOLDING MY HAND ALL NIGHT LONG.

NOW THAT I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT...

...THAT WILL...

...DOES SEEM PRETTY SUSPICIOUS.

BUT I'M NOT WORRIED.

IT COULD BE THAT...

...IT WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME...

...BECAUSE SOMEONE NEEDS MY HELP!

I WON'T LEAVE.
THIS IS MY HOUSE.
IF I KNOCK ...
... AND STEP IN...
... I'M CER-TAIN ...

AS IF TO SAY, "I'M COUNTING ON YOU, HIMARI!"
I DON'T KNOW WHO WROTE IT...
...BUT THEY'RE FAMILY.
MOMOCHI HOUSE...
I DON'T MIND LENDING A HELPING HAND.

AS IF TO SAY, "I'M COUNTING ON YOU, HIMARI!"

I DON'T KNOW WHO WROTE IT...

will

...BUT THEY'RE FAMILY.

MOMOCHI HOUSE...

I DON'T MIND LENDING A HELPING HAND.

I WON'T LEAVE.

THIS IS MY HOUSE.

IF I KNOCK ...

... AND STEP IN...

... I'M CER-TAIN ...

...
YOU'LL BE THERE.

NOW LET'S OPEN THAT DOOR...

HUH?!

ANYWAY, I'LL BE COLLECTING RENT.

©Chapter 1/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER 2

ON MY SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY, I RECEIVED A WILL THAT INFORMED ME I HAD BECOME THE OWNER OF MOMOCHI HOUSE.

THE HOUSE WAS BUILT ON THE BORDER OF THE MATERIAL WORLD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM. IT'S INHABITED BY DEMONS AND SPIRITS KNOWN AS AYAKASHI.

RWL

MN...

CHIRP

AND LIVING AMONG THEM...

THREE ARMS...?

CHAPTER 2

Himari Becomes a Landlady

AAAAH!

...IS A MYSTERIOUS BOY BY THE NAME OF AOI.

CHAPTER 2

Himari Becomes a Landlady

KA-
-WA-
-K

OW!

Ouch...

UM, I WAS COLD...

OH...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?!

BOMF

UNBELIEV-ABLE!

THAT'S AN EXCUSE A CHILD WOULD MAKE!

SEVENTEEN... I THINK?

HUH?

HOW OLD ARE YOU?!

YOU CRAWLED INTO A 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL'S BED BECAUSE YOU WERE COLD?

AOI IS ALWAYS TOUCHING ME.

AND THOUGH IT WAS TO PROTECT ME FROM AN AYAKASHI...

SHOCK

YOU'RE TOO OLD TO DO THOSE THINGS!

IT'S NOT NORMAL!

...HE EVEN KISSED ME.

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO THINK ANYTHING OF IT.

GOOD MORNING, AOI, HIMARI.

HOW COULD HE STEAL A KISS FROM ME?!

WOW, IT'S SO PRETTY IN HERE.

FOR NOW, IT SEEMS AOI HAS ACCEPTED YOU.

HEH

YOU CAN ASK ME ANYTHING ABOUT THIS HOUSE.

I-IS THAT TRUE?

YUKARI...

WE ALLOWED THE KUMONYUDO TO TRASH IT IN ORDER TO CHASE YOU OUT.

THIS IS WHAT MOMOCHI HOUSE USUALLY LOOKS LIKE.

"FOR NOW"?

YAWN

I DON'T THINK YOU'LL LEAVE ANY TIME SOON...

...NO MATTER WHAT I SAY.

I AM THE LANDLADY OF MOMOCHI HOUSE!

YES, YOU'RE THE LEGAL OWNER.

BALK

BUT I'M ITS PROTECTOR.

THAT'S RIGHT...

...IS THE NUE REALLY THE SAME AS AOI?

THERE'S JUST SO MUCH I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIM.

AOI IS THE OMAMORI-SAMA WHO GUARDS THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE TWO WORLDS.

HE HAS THE EARS OF A CAT, THE WINGS OF A BIRD, AND THE TAIL OF A FOX.

THE NUE IS A STRANGE AYAKASHI...

BUT...

SO ANYWAY...

I REALLY THINK I SHOULD COLLECT RENT.

BLUNT

WHAT? YOU WEREN'T JOKING?

LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR.

I AM THE LANDLADY! YOU THREE ARE FREELOADERS!

Even 100 yen is fine with me!

I NEED TO MAKE OUR RELA-TIONSHIP CLEAR.

IF I CAN'T SAVE HER...

...THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO KEEP LIVING!

OTHER-WISE I'LL GET WEIRD THOUGHTS ABOUT HIM.

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?!

SCHOOL? WHAT ABOUT YOU, HIMARI?

He really is a NEET...

DIRECT

I CAN'T LIVE WITH A 17-YEAR-OLD BOY!

YOU DON'T HAVE A JOB? WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?

I HAVE NO MONEY.

THERE ARE THINGS I MUST DO HERE.

I PLAN ON FINDING A SCHOOL TO TRANSFER TO ONCE I'VE SETTLED IN.

YOU'RE 17, SO YOU SHOULD BE IN HIGH SCHOOL TOO, RIGHT?

UH-HUH...

IS IT REALLY SOMETHING THAT NEEDS YOUR CONSTANT ATTENTION?

PROTECTING THIS HOUSE, RIGHT?

WHY DON'T YOU TRY GETTING A PART-TIME JOB?

AOI GETTING A JOB? THAT'D NEVER HAPPEN.

BEING COOPED UP IN THIS HOUSE ALL THE TIME HAS MADE YOU...

...WEIRD!

ZA RK

UH...

SINCE YOU WANT IT THAT BADLY, HERE.

MY RENT.

EH?

GYA HA HA

Oh, that was valuable...

YEEEK!

HHM

GET OUT!

!

YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY?! GET OUT!

WOOSH

W-WHAT'S THIS?!

FWAA

TOSS

ARGH!

HUH? WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

EH?

THE HOUSE RESPONDED TO HER COMMAND TO THROW HIM OUT.

SILENCE

MOVE!

MOVE...

REALLY ?

DO I REALLY HAVE SUCH A SPECIAL POWER?!

I SEE... I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE HIMARI IS THE HEIR.

BLU SH

GEH HEH HEH

GET OUT!

TRO MP

NOT REALLY... TOSSING ME OUTSIDE IS NOTHING SPECIAL.

BUT IT PROVES THE HOUSE RECOGNIZES ME AS THE LANDLADY.

"GET OUT" IS THE COMMAND THAT WORKS, IT SEEMS.

Hm..

POIK

CAN I HELP YOU WITH ANYTHING, YUKARI?

NO, THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.

YUKARI CLEANED THE ENTIRE HOUSE.

IS THERE ANYTHING LEFT FOR ME TO DO?

Why you—!

GET OUT!

STILL...

THERE'S NOT MUCH USE FOR A POWER LIKE THIS.

GRIN

WHY DON'T YOU TRY GETTING A PART-TIME JOB?

URK

I'M A FAILURE AS A LAND-LADY.

SIGH

YUKARI'S SMILE HOLDS MORE POWER THAN MY LITTLE "GET OUT!"

I'M A PIG'S EAR...

THE EXPRESSION YOU WANT IS "AT A LOOSE END."

!

BLUSH

I-I KNEW THAT...

HUH? IS THIS ONE OF THE LESSER YOKAI?

SHMP

YOU'RE THE LANDLADY, RIGHT?

!

Y-YES, I AM.

I WANTED TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR.

MY TREASURE IS SOMEWHERE IN MOMOCHI HOUSE.

PLEASE FIND IT SO I CAN GIVE IT TO YOU AS RENT.

I HAVE A CHANCE TO REDEEM MYSELF!

OKAY! JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

!

IF YOU'RE THE LANDLADY, YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW.

I'LL JUST OPEN ALL THE DOORS...

MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL IF IT'S NEARBY.

TH-THEN...

JOLT

WHAT IS THIS TREASURE, ANYWAY?

I CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS GIANT HOUSE TOO!

KLAK

YOU CAN'T FIND IT...

URK

KLAK

AH?!

KLAK

HUH? THIS IS A ROOM?

KLAK

BOOM

A-ALL RIGHT, NEXT ROOM!

SOOF

EEEK!

BAM

THAT IS A DEMON GATE. IN THERE IS AYAKASHI TERRITORY.

HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH?

HE WAS WATCHING ME?!

EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR FUN, IT'S NOT SAFE TO EXPLORE THIS HOUSE.

I...

I WASN'T DOING IT FOR FUN. THAT LITTLE GUY ASKED ME FOR HELP...

OH... HE'S GONE...

WHEN AOI PUTS IT LIKE THAT, I FEEL LIKE I AM JUST MESSING AROUND.

I CAN'T STAND IT.

KLAK

HIMARI... ARE YOU AWAKE?

PSST

AOI?

YUKARI?

HOW IS SHE?

SHE'S SOUND ASLEEP. SHE'LL BE FINE.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE PUT UP A BARRIER INSIDE THE HOUSE.

...

I'll pretend to be asleep.

MAYBE HE'S GOING TO LECTURE ME...

AOI...

SHFF

EVERY-THING IS READY.

IT'S FOR HER SAKE, ISN'T IT?

I DON'T WANT YOU DOING THIS TOO OFTEN. YOU'LL WEAR YOURSELF OUT.

I JUST TOLD HER SHE COULD STAY.

I WOULDN'T WANT SOMETHING TO HAPPEN TO HER.

AGAIN IT'S FOR MY SAKE...

IT'S TRUE.

THIS SH

BUT...

IT'S NOT AS IF LEARNING MORE ABOUT AOI OR THIS HOUSE WILL HELP IN ANY WAY.

AH.

IS IT THIS WAY?

I'M A USELESS 16-YEAR-OLD.

I JUST PICKED UP AND CAME TO THIS HOUSE.

HUFF
HUFF
AOI...
I'M FINE!
OH

I STILL WANT TO KNOW.

I STILL WANT TO KNOW.

HUFF
HUFF

AOI...

I'M FINE!

OH

ARE YOU OKAY, AOI?!

CAN YOU WAIT WHILE I GET SOME CLOTHES ON?

AH... SORRY...

HIMARI...

THAT STRANGE ROBE... DO YOU WEAR IT SO YOU CAN COVER YOURSELF UP QUICKLY?

SHF

...WOULD PROTECT ME.

YUKARI SAID ITS POWER...

YEAH, I GUESS SO. I FOUND IT IN THE HOUSE.

PHOO

...

YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED.

...

YOU MUSTN'T WANDER AROUND LIKE YOU DID TODAY.

THE DEMON POWER BEYOND THIS POINT IS DANGEROUS. I SEALED IT OFF.

THAT ASIDE...

NO, I'M USED TO THIS.

...I WASN'T MESSING AROUND!

BUT...

I'M REALLY SORRY FOR CAUSING SO MUCH TROUBLE.

...AND WHAT YOU DO.

...WHAT EXACTLY THIS HOUSE IS...

I WANT TO KNOW...

TELL ME.

SHF

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

SURE.

I KEPT QUIET FOR YOUR SAKE, BUT IT ONLY MADE YOU WORRY MORE.

I'M SORRY.

IT'S STILL ME. I HAVEN'T BEEN POSSESSED BY ANYTHING.

I-I SEE.

THEN...

...

WHEN YOU'RE THE NUE, YOU'RE STILL AOI, RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT.

...CAN YOU TRANSFORM ANY TIME YOU LIKE?

YEAH.

NOW I CAN SWITCH BETWEEN FORMS AT WILL.

...

COOL, HUH? I CAN SEAL DEMONS.

I RATHER LIKE IT.

BUT I DON'T GET PAID FOR IT, SO I HAVE NO MONEY FOR RENT.

NEXT QUES-TION...

WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID THERE'D BE NO REASON FOR YOU TO KEEP LIVING...

...IF YOU COULDN'T SAVE ME?

UM...

DID I SAY THAT?

I'M BEGIN-NING TO REALIZE ...

THUSH

AOI–

...THAT AOI CAN LIE.

IT GOT THROUGH MY BARRIER?

THERE'S SOMETHING HERE!

HOW COULD YOU TRAP ME IN THERE? YOU'RE A HORRIBLE LANDLADY.

GRAB

MEAN..

MEAN

MEAN

ONLY HARMLESS AYAKASHI CAN PASS THROUGH YOUR BARRIER.

RIGHT NOW I SENSE SOMETHING OMINOUS BUT NOT EVIL.

THAT AYAKASHI SAID "LAND-LADY."

AOI!

NO, THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE...

DID I FAIL?

NO!

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS—

MEAN...

MEAN...

MEAN...

...HE'LL PLACE A CURSE ON THE HOUSE.

IF YOU SLAY HIM HERE...

IT'S PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA.

I'LL HAVE TO CONSUME HIM.

BUT WE CAN'T JUST IGNORE HIM.

I HAVE NO CHOICE.

SAY, ARE YOU UPSET BECAUSE I COULDN'T FIND YOUR TREASURE?

WAIT!

?

I'M SORRY!

I PROMISED TO FIND IT! SO PLEASE TURN BACK TO NORMAL!

LET ME TALK TO HIM.

THAT AYAKASHI IS TALKING ABOUT ME, THE LANDLADY.

IF WE DON'T, HE'LL TURN INTO SOMETHING WORSE.

THE ONLY OPTION NOW IS TO SEAL HIM AWAY.

TUG

THE DARK AURA SURROUNDING HIM HAS GROWN SO LARGE THAT HE CAN NO LONGER UNDERSTAND WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING.

THAT WON'T WORK, HIMARI.

OH!

WAIT!

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO THROW HIM OUT...

...SO DON'T DO ANYTHING YET.

I DON'T WANT AOI TO OVEREXERT HIMSELF ANYMORE.

INHALE

GET OUT!

GET OUT!

PLEASE WORK...

THIS IS ALL I CAN DO.

PLEASE WORK!

I WON'T LET HIM SUFFER MORE BY DEVOURING THIS DEMON!

AOI IS WORN OUT.

GET OUT!

GET OUT!

GET OUT!

I'LL FIND SOMETHING I CAN DO.

SUFF

TO PROTECT THIS HOUSE...

TO PROTECT THOSE BY MY SIDE...

...IN YOUR COM-MAND...

HAVE CONVIC-TION...

GR

AA

AH

...!

GET OUT!

I KNOW I CAN DO THIS!

VOOSH

AAH...

I SEE...

THIS IS HIS TRUE FORM.

YOU'RE AMAZING, HIMARI.

SHFF

OH...!

YOU MUSTN'T LOOK AT ME.

DON'T WORRY. I WON'T SWALLOW HIM UP.

I RETURN...

...YOUR SIN TO DARKNESS AND YOUR DARKNESS TO OBLIVION...

I CAN'T TURN MY EYES AWAY FROM HIM.

I'M NOT AFRAID.

I FIND HIM...

...INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU EXIST IN THIS WORLD...

...AOI?

WHO ARE YOU REALLY...

LOOK, I CLEANED HIM UP!

POINK

A GOLDEN PIG...

A PIG...

HE LOOKS LIKE A PIGGY BANK.

IT'S A PIG, ISN'T IT?

HE'S A *KANEDAMA.*

HE'S AN AYAKASHI THAT BRINGS PROSPERITY TO THE HOUSE IN WHICH HE DWELLS.

BECAUSE HE'S A GOOD AYAKASHI TO START WITH, HE COULD PASS THROUGH MY BARRIER.

IF WE HAD SLAIN HIM OR DRIVEN HIM AWAY, HE'D BE A PROBLEM.

THANKFULLY YOU WERE ABLE TO FORCE THE DARK AURA AROUND HIM OUTSIDE.

THAT WAS LUCKY ...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I HAVE WANDERED AROUND THIS HOUSE FOR AGES WITHOUT MEETING ITS OWNER.

BUT I BECAME TAINTED AND TURNED INTO THAT DEMON.

I SEE...

HE HIMSELF WAS THE TREASURE.

THERE-FORE...

...I WANT TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION TO THIS HOUSEHOLD.

AC-CORDING TO LEGEND ...

...HE BRINGS GOLD TO YOUR HOUSE.

GOLD ?!

WHOA, THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A FAIRYTALE.

KEEN

KEEN

VEEN

SHOOM

AH... THIS...

OW!

WHAT IS THIS?

...IS GOLDEN CANDY.

Well we won't be running out of sugar any time soon.

Candy!!

BLUSH

YOU TRICKED ME... I HATE YOU, AOI!

Chapter 2/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER
3

Falling Cherry Blossoms Stir Up a Storm of Love?!

ZZZZ

YUP

SHIP

IT'S MORN-ING.

HE DID IT AGAIN.

BLUSH

AOI!

WHAT'S ODD IS THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO GET PAST MY BARRICADE!

SORRY.

OH...

THAT'S ODD. I THOUGHT I SLEPT IN MY OWN BED.

KLATT

ARGH!

Darn this Japanese house!

THIS SIDE OPENS TOO.

I SLEEP WELL IN HERE.

YOU'RE SO WARM, HIMARI.

B-BMp

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

IF YOU'RE TIRED, SLEEP IN YOUR OWN BED.

SWIP

0 ?

!!

HALT

GRA H

YOU'RE SHAME-LESS!

AH! SORRY, SORRY...

AOI LOOKS PALE.

...AOI HAS BEEN BUSY WITH WORK.

EVER SINCE I ARRIVED AT MOMOCHI HOUSE LAST WEEK...

THIS PLACE WAS BUILT ON THE BORDER BETWEEN THE HUMAN WORLD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

THIS IS MOMOCHI HOUSE.

AYAKASHI WANDER IN AND CROSS THE BORDER, CAUSING TROUBLE IN THE HUMAN WORLD...

IT'S AOI'S JOB TO SEAL THEM AWAY.

IT'S HIS DUTY AS THE OMAMORI-SAMA OF MOMOCHI HOUSE.

MOMOCHI HOUSE...

THEY'LL PROBABLY TELL ME I'M IN THE WAY...

...SO I'LL WATCH FROM A DISTANCE.

IT'S FOR HER SAKE, ISN'T IT?

I JUST TOLD HER SHE COULD STAY.

...DOES SO MUCH EVERY DAY. IS HE WEARING HIMSELF OUT...

WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS PLACE?

AOI...

PHOO

...FOR MY SAKE?

HIMARI...

...THAT'S DANGER-OUS.

SHUF

SHUF

SHUF

TUP

WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU, HIMARI?

...BUT IF YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION, YOU'LL PLAY RIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF THE MORE MISCHIEVOUS AYAKASHI.

UM...

IT'S ABOUT AOI.

GACK!!

BLECH

MANY OF THE TOOLS IN MOMOCHI HOUSE ARE POSSESSED BY AYAKASHI.

I DON'T MIND IF YOU WANT TO HELP...

PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE HE'S BEEN INDOORS FOR SO LONG. IT'S GOT TO BE UNHEALTHY.

SAY, WILL YOU BE GOING TO SCHOOL SOON?

DON'T YOU THINK HE'S...

...A LITTLE TOO INNOCENT FOR HIS AGE?

HE'LL DO THINGS LIKE CLIMB INTO MY BED, OR TOUCH AND KISS ME LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

...IF AOI COULD GO TO SCHOOL TOO.

HUH?

IT'S EXAM TIME RIGHT NOW, SO I PLAN TO GO ONCE THAT'S OVER.

IT WOULD BE NICE...

HUH?!

YOU TALK ABOUT AOI A LOT, DON'T YOU?

HEH

THAT'S BECAUSE HE DOES STRANGE THINGS–

AOI ISN'T **ALWAYS** ON MY MIND...

...BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM.

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS HOUSE OR AOI.

BUT...

...THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY-THING.

I CAN'T REALLY BRING IT UP.

IF HE'S EXHAUSTED FROM DOING THINGS FOR ME...

WAFT

...I'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING FOR HIM IN RETURN.

A FLOWER PETAL IN THE HOUSE?

IT CAME FROM FARTHER IN?

COME HERE...

COME HERE...

IT'S BEST IF YOU DON'T WANDER AROUND THE HOUSE TOO MUCH.

COME HERE...

...AOI WILL FEEL BETTER.

THE FRUIT OF THE ANCIENT CHERRY TREE IS A CURE-ALL...

YOU'LL GET LOST.

SWISH

BUT IF I CAN FIND THAT...

COME THIS WAY...

COME...

KLAK

I...

...WANT AOI TO FEEL BETTER...

?!

SWFF

THIS HOUSE IS A MYSTERY.

SWFF

COME HERE.

I'M STILL INSIDE THE HOUSE.

I NEVER EXPECTED TO FIND A FIELD OF CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES...

SWFF

THIS IS THE TREE...

WITH THIS...

ALL YOUR AILMENTS WILL DISAPPEAR AFTER ONE BITE...

THE FRUIT OF THE ANCIENT CHERRY TREE IS A CURE-ALL.

...AOI WILL...

SHFF

YOU TOOK IT...

OH

KRSSH

PLUK

YOU TOOK IT...

AND IN EX-CHANGE ...

...I'LL TAKE YOUR SOUL!
HIMARI!
AAAAH!

AAAAH!

HIMARI!

...I'LL TAKE YOUR SOUL!

WHY IS IT GROWING IN HERE?

A CHERRY TREE?

IT'S NOT WHAT IT SEEMS.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK.

KREK KREK KREK

A...

I FOUND YOU.

AOI!

ARE YOU OKAY?

RH

H

M

GIVE IT TO ME...

GIVE ME THE SOUL OF THE MOMOCHI!

RHHM

TUP

IT'S AN AYAKASHI.

AOI!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
IT'S HARDER FOR HIM BECAUSE I'M HERE.
KRUK
KRUK
KRUK
AOI!
IT'S BIG, WHICH MAKES IT HARDER.

I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO HIM.

IT'S MY OWN FAULT THIS HAPPENED.

DON'T LET GO.

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.

SUFF

CLOSE YOUR EYES.

YOU MUSTN'T LOOK AT ME.

COME FORTH, MY SHIKIGAMI!

THE NUE...

FLIP UP

...AND ISE THE SHOUJOU...

YUKARI THE MIZUCHI...

VISH

YES, MASTER.

...AND CAPTURE THAT AYAKASHI.

I COMMAND YOU TO PROTECT US...

WE DON'T NEED TO TRANSFORM TO FIGHT A TREE MONSTER!

DON'T LET DOWN YOUR GUARD.

YOU USED FAUX FLOWERS TO DECEIVE HUMAN HEARTS...

GRAAH
SCATTER.

I HEARD ITS VOICE IN MY HEAD, AND THINGS STARTED TO GO BLANK...

REEL

I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN HIMARI IS INVOLVED.

THE BLOOD OF THE MOMOCHI RUNS IN YOUR VEINS. IT WANTED TO DEVOUR YOU TO GAIN IMMENSE POWER.

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT IT WOULD USE ITS POWER OF SUGGESTION TO LURE HER HERE.

IT'S USUALLY SUCH A QUIET OLD TREE...

AOI!

I'M REALLY SORRY!

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN SUFFERING...

I'M IN OVER MY HEAD.

BUT...

I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO FIND SOMETHING I COULD DO FOR YOU.

...AND I WANTED TO HELP YOU FEEL BETTER.

HIMARI...

HUG

KNOWING YOU DID THAT FOR ME...

...MAKES ME SO VERY HAPPY.

B-BUT ALL I DID WAS CAUSE TROUBLE.

GRIP

DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.

I'M FINE.

...SEEING YOU SMILE...

...MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.

SO...

IF ANY-THING...

SMILE.

THAT'S SILLY—

WILL SOMETHING THAT EASY...

IS IT REALLY THAT SIMPLE?

...MAKE YOU SMILE TOO...

...AOI?

IT'S ALMOST SUMMER.

THAT'S RIGHT...

WHEN I GOT THIS HOUSE, I THOUGHT I WOULD BE LIVING HERE...

...ALL ON MY OWN.

THERE'S SO MUCH EXCITEMENT EVERY DAY...

...

SHF

zzz

HEY...

WELL, I'LL LEAVE THEM BE.

JOLT

BLINK

HUH

HEY...

WAKE UP.

MM...

THERE MIGHT BE LATE-BLOOMING CHERRY BLOSSOMS SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.

LET'S GO LOOK FOR THEM...

...AOI.

NO MATTER WHAT...

...I WANT TO GO FOR IT.

COME ON.

...IF I CAN MAKE YOU SMILE...

...CAN'T STOP...

I SIMPLY...

...THINKING ABOUT YOU.

THAT WAY...

YOU SHOULD GO OUTSIDE TOO.

YOU SHOULDN'T STAY INDOORS ALL THE TIME.

HIMARI...

...

IT'S BEYOND THE WALL... OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.

HIMARI...

HIMARI.

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I WANT TO SEE WITH YOU.

KRE
K

TMP

AOI...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HIMARI...

I...

...CAN'T LEAVE THIS HOUSE.

NEVER?

WHAT?

Chapter 3/End

■ What did you think of *The Demon Prince of Momochi House*? When I was little, I'd feel lonely when I was home alone. I was afraid of the dark. I couldn't go to the bathroom alone. I'd always look behind me when I walked home. And mundane noises would make me imagine all kinds of things. Those were the things I was thinking about as I wrote this story.
Please continue to follow the adventures of Himari, Aoi, and this mysterious house!

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

Hello, I'm Aya Shouoto. This is my first "Japanese" style series! I'm a little apprehensive about how I'll do in putting to paper my secret love of things Japanese... But I'm going to do my very best!

-Aya Shouoto

Aya Shouoto was born on December 25. Her hobbies are traveling, staying at hotels, sewing and daydreaming. She currently lives in Tokyo and enjoys listening to J-pop anime theme songs while she works.

The Demon Prince of Momochi House

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